

HOUSE No. 1047

By Ms. Story of Amherst, petition of Ellen Story and others for legislation to improve early literacy skills for certain children at risk. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Ellen Story	John W. Scibak
Michael J. Rodrigues	Charles A. Murphy
Michael F. Kane	

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF EARLY LITERACY SKILLS FOR AT RISK CHILDREN.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 1I of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 2002 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 inserting before the first paragraph the following paragraph:—

4 For the purpose of this section the following words shall have
5 the following meaning,

6 “Qualified literacy program”, a pre referral early intervention
7 program for children determined to be at risk of failing to learn to
8 read in the first grade. The program shall be a one-on-one tutorial
9 program based on published research in peer reviewed journals.

1 SECTION 2. The eighth paragraph of said section 1I of said
2 chapter 69, as amended by section 138 of chapter 159 of the acts
3 of 2000 is hereby further amended by adding the following sub-
4 paragraph:—

5 (i) the number of children receiving pre-referral services, the
6 number of children receiving special education referrals in first
7 and second grades because of failure to learn to read and the

8 number children entering and completing qualified literacy pro-
9 grams.

1 SECTION 3. Section 38G of chapter 71 of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in the 2002 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 inserting after the definition of “Temporary certificate” the fol-
4 lowing definition:—

5 “Qualified literacy program,” a pre referral early intervention
6 program for children determined to be at risk of failing to learn to
7 read in the first grade. The program shall be a one-on-one tutorial
8 program based on published research in peer reviewed journals.

1 SECTION 4. MGL, Section 143 of chapter 159 of the acts of
2 2000 is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 6 and 7, the
3 words “and classroom organization and management” and
4 inserting in place thereof the following words:— , classroom
5 organization and management and the provision of a qualified lit-
6 eracy program within regular education.

1 SECTION 5. MGL, Section 144 of said chapter 159 is hereby
2 amended by striking out the words “and classroom organization
3 and management” and inserting in place thereof the following
4 words:— , classroom organization and management and the provi-
5 sion of a qualified literacy program within regular education.

1 SECTION 6. Section 38Q of chapter 71 of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in the 2002 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 inserting before the first paragraph the following paragraph:—

4 For the purpose of this section the following words shall have
5 the following meaning,

6 “Qualified literacy program,” a pre referral early intervention
7 program for children determined to be at risk of failing to learn to
8 read in the first grade. The program shall be a one-on-one tutorial
9 program based on published research in peer reviewed journals.

1 SECTION 7. Section 146 of chapter 159 of the acts of 2000 is
2 hereby amended by striking out the last sentence and inserting in
3 place thereof the following sentence:— The plan shall also

4 include training in the provision of pre-referral services and quali-
5 fied literacy programs.

1 SECTION 8. Section 38Q½ of chapter 71 of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in section 147 of chapter 159 of the acts of 2000 is
3 hereby amended by adding the following sentence:— The plan
4 shall include the provision of a qualified literacy program.

1 SECTION 9. Section 1 of chapter 71B of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in th 2002 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 inserting after the definition of “Least restrictive environment” the
4 following definition:—

5 “Qualified literacy program”, a pre referral early intervention
6 program for children determined to be at risk of failing to learn to
7 read in the first grade. The program shall be a one-on-one tutorial
8 program based on published research in peer reviewed journals.

1 SECTION 10. Section 153 of chapter 159 of the acts of 2000 is
2 hereby amended by inserting after the words “limited to”, in
3 line 7, the following words:— the implementation of qualified lit-
4 eracy programs and to.

1 SECTION 11. Said section 153 of said chapter 159 is hereby
2 further amended by inserting after the word “that”, in line 14, the
3 following words:— the child is provided access to a qualified lit-
4 eracy program and.

1 SECTION 12. Section 154 of said chapter 159 is hereby
2 amended by inserting after the words “limited to” the following
3 words:— the implementation of a qualified literacy program and
4 to.

1 SECTION 13. Section 171 of said chapter 159 is hereby
2 amended by inserting after the word “chapter”, in line 6, the fol-
3 lowing words:— and for the eligible instructional costs associated
4 with the implementation of a qualified literacy program.

1 SECTION 14. Said section 171 of said chapter 159 is hereby
2 further amended by adding the following subsection:—

3 (f) School districts shall be reimbursed 50 per cent of the cost
4 of teachers' salaries for qualified literacy programs. The reim-
5 bursement program shall in not alter the seniority status, pay
6 scale, retirement eligibility, or any other compensation or benefit
7 to which existing teachers are currently entitled.